



Walking Liberty Half Dollars

5 Walking Liberty Half Dollar Facts Every Collector Should Know



Designed by: Adolph Alexander Weinman

Edge Style: Reeded

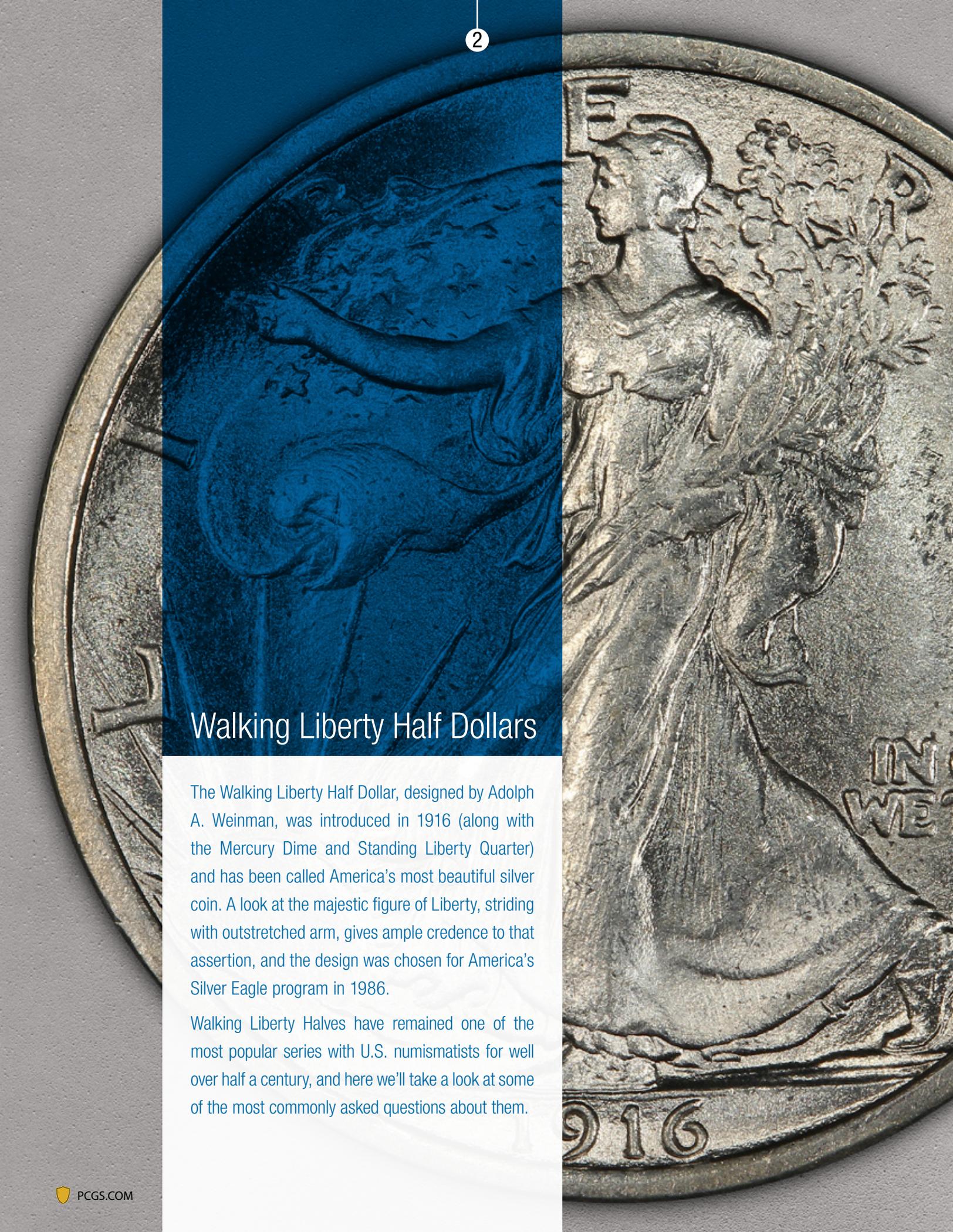
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

Diameter: 30.6mm

Weight: 12.50g

Metallic Content: 90% Silver, 10% Copper

Silver Content: .3617 oz Pure Silver



Walking Liberty Half Dollars

The Walking Liberty Half Dollar, designed by Adolph A. Weinman, was introduced in 1916 (along with the Mercury Dime and Standing Liberty Quarter) and has been called America's most beautiful silver coin. A look at the majestic figure of Liberty, striding with outstretched arm, gives ample credence to that assertion, and the design was chosen for America's Silver Eagle program in 1986.

Walking Liberty Halves have remained one of the most popular series with U.S. numismatists for well over half a century, and here we'll take a look at some of the most commonly asked questions about them.

Are Walking Liberty Half Dollars Rare?

Some are, some aren't. Within most coin series, there are really two kinds of rarity.

The first is absolute rarity. That is a date and mintmark combination of which relatively few were made and are worth a premium price in any condition. A great example of this is the 1921-D. Only 208,000 were originally minted and perhaps 5% survive today. Even in low grade, this coin is worth several hundred dollars.

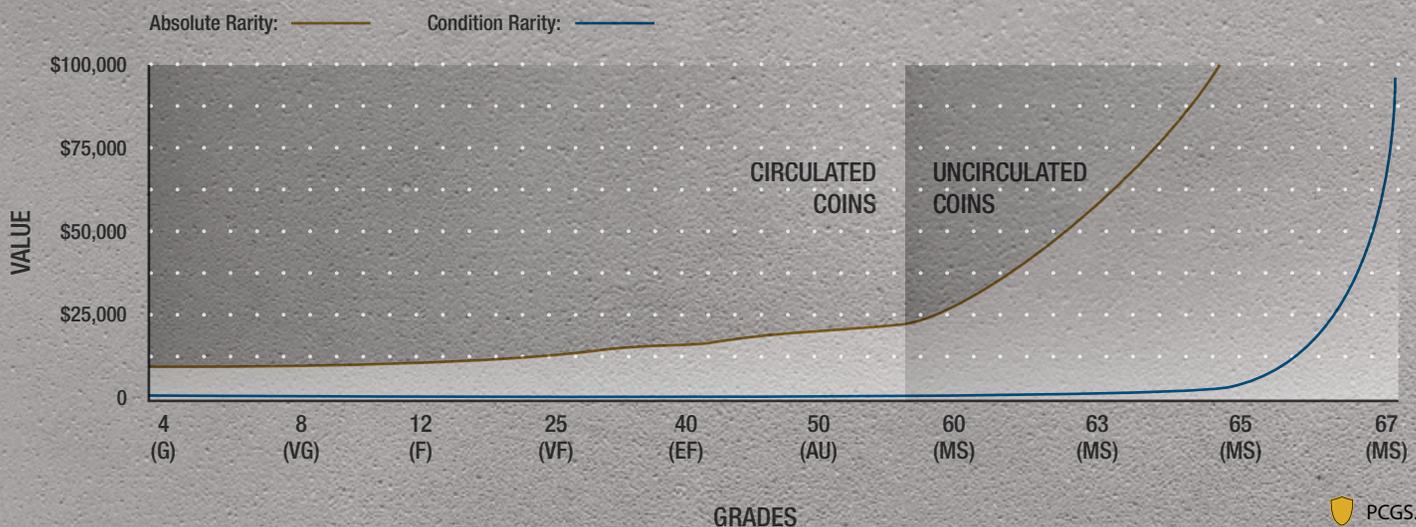
The other kind of rarity is what we call condition rarity. These are coins which are considered common in circulated or even low uncirculated grades (MS60-62), but their value soars in high uncirculated grades (MS66-67). The 1941-S is a good example. In circulated grades, it is common and worth no more than any other date. But in MS67, it has fetched as much as \$90,000!

As a general rule, most Walkers are not considered to be rare coins. They can be readily located online on sites such as eBay or Amazon, at all coin shows and numismatic auctions and from any local dealer.

ABSOLUTE RARITY



CONDITION RARITY



What Are Walking Liberty Half Dollars Worth?

A Walking Liberty Half contains .3617 ounces of pure silver.

At a silver price of around \$15.00/oz, the melt value of any Walker is about \$5.40.

As a practical matter though, with a 10% premium for silver coins, a value of about \$6.00 or so is a good minimum.

Most dates after 1933, in well-worn condition, would be worth about this.

In average uncirculated condition, most common date Walkers today are worth between \$35 and \$40

Nice uncirculated examples will bring anywhere from \$75 to \$125 or so.

Gem condition common dates run \$500 and up.



What Are the Common and Rare Dates?

Traditionally, Walkers have been broken into two main groups: the “early dates” (1916-1933) and the “late dates” (1934-1947). Again, you must keep in mind the absolute vs. condition rarity discussed earlier. Most of the really valuable Walkers on an absolute rarity basis are found in the early group, and these include the 1916-S, 1921 and 1921-D. They are valuable even in low grades (G-VG). In the middle grades (F-XF) you can add the 1917-S Obv, 1919-D, 1919-S and the 1921-S. In Uncirculated grade (MS-63) nearly all of the pre-1933 dates with mintmarks are pretty tough.

The only later date that carries a substantial premium in anything less than uncirculated is the 1938-D by virtue of its low mintage of less than half a million pieces. However, in the very highest uncirculated grades (MS66-67) many of the mintmarked coins from the 1930s and 1940s bring hefty prices. Note, however, that the likelihood of owning an uncertified Walker in that grade is quite slim.

You’ll note that we mentioned the “1917-S Obv” above. What’s that all about? It’s about mintmarks, and we’ll provide a bit of explanation on the next page.



1916-S 50C

COINS MINTED

508,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS67 \$33,350



1921 50C

COINS MINTED

264,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS66 \$54,050



1921-D 50C

COINS MINTED

208,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS66 \$94,000

▲ RARE DATES

▼ COMMON DATES



1940 50C

COINS MINTED

9,156,000

AUCTION RECORD

MS68 \$7,050

Where is the Mintmark on a Walking Liberty Half Dollar?

This would depend on the date the coin was issued.



On the very first issues (1916 and 1917) the mintmark appeared on the front, or obverse of the coin, right underneath the motto "In God We Trust."



Later in 1917, the mintmark was moved to the reverse, slightly above and to the left of the word "HALF," where it remained for the next 30 years. On the 1917s, the mintmark can appear either on the obverse or the reverse.

Grading Weak Strike vs. Full Strike

Walkers have quite a bit of fine detail in their design (particularly on the obverse) and the strength of the strike from the dies when the coin was originally made is important. Unfortunately, quite a few dates in this series are weakly struck.

In the early years (1916-1920) the lines in Liberty's skirt were faint, and often are extremely weak. Even on very high-grade pieces, the lines are often almost too shallow to see.

The center portion of Liberty, where her hand crosses her waist is another area that is chronically weakly struck, and this persisted through the end of the series in 1947. Many of the "S" mint coins in the 1930s and 1940s are weakly struck, and finding a well-struck example is not easy.



The Walking Liberty Half has always been a popular coin for collectors. They are large, attractive and feature a good balance between common and rare dates. None of the dates are really impossibly rare, and completing the set in circulated condition is a very achievable goal. Putting together a high-end Mint State set will cost some serious money, but all the coins are available and can be found with a bit of patience. Good Luck.

1916 - 1947 Walking Liberty Half Dollars

Mintage and Collectible Value (continued)

Year	Mintage	Good	Fine	Extra Fine	Uncirculated
1916	608,000	\$36.00 - \$42.00	\$70.00 - \$80.00	\$175.00 - \$190.00	\$270.00 and up
1916 D	1,014,400	\$36.00 - \$42.00	\$60.00 - \$70.00	\$180.00 - \$200.00	\$290.00 and up
1916 S	508,000	\$85.00 - \$100.00	\$185.00 - \$210.00	\$425.00 - \$500.00	\$1000.00 and up
1917	12,292,000	\$11.00 - \$13.00	\$12.00 - \$14.00	\$30.00 - \$36.00	\$100.00 and up
1917 D obv	765,400	\$19.00 - \$22.00	\$55.00 - \$65.00	\$165.00 - \$200.00	\$400.00 and up
1917 D rev	1,940,000	\$12.00 - \$14.00	\$30.00 - \$35.00	\$210.00 - \$250.00	\$600.00 and up
1917 S obv	952,000	\$22.00 - \$25.00	\$95.00 - \$110.00	\$500.00 - \$600.00	\$1700.00 and up
1917 S rev	5,554,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$45.00 - \$50.00	\$300.00 and up
1918	6,634,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$100.00 - \$125.00	\$250.00 and up
1918 D	3,853,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$25.00 - \$30.00	\$175.00 - \$200.00	\$850.00 and up
1918 S	10,282,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$50.00 - \$65.00	\$250.00 and up
1919	962,000	\$19.00 - \$22.00	\$50.00 - \$60.00	\$425.00 - \$500.00	\$1150.00 and up
1919 D	1,165,000	\$19.00 - \$22.00	\$80.00 - \$95.00	\$625.00 - \$650.00	\$4000.00 and up
1919 S	1,552,000	\$16.00 - \$19.00	\$55.00 - \$65.00	\$550.00 - \$600.00	\$2400.00 and up
1920	6,372,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$10.00 - \$12.00	\$55.00 - \$65.00	\$200.00 and up
1920 D	1,551,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$50.00 - \$60.00	\$300.00 - \$350.00	\$1000.00 and up
1920 S	4,624,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$20.00 - \$25.00	\$210.00 - \$250.00	\$650.00 and up
1921	246,000	\$125.00 - \$145.00	\$250.00 - \$300.00	\$1250.00 - \$1500.00	\$3200.00 and up
1921 D	208,000	\$215.00 - \$250.00	\$300.00 - \$360.00	\$1800.00 - \$2100.00	\$6200.00 and up
1921 S	548,000	\$35.00 - \$40.00	\$175.00 - \$200.00	\$2500.00 - \$3000.00	\$12,000.00 and up
1923 S	2,178,000	\$12.00 - \$14.00	\$25.00 - \$28.00	\$250.00 - \$300.00	\$950.00 and up
1927 S	2,392,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$125.00 - \$150.00	\$700.00 and up
1928 S	1,940,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$180.00 - \$200.00	\$775.00 and up
1929 D	1,001,200	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$80.00 - \$95.00	\$300.00 and up
1929 S	1,902,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	\$90.00 - \$110.00	\$325.00 and up
1933 S	1,786,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$12.00 - \$14.00	\$35.00 - \$40.00	\$400.00 and up
1934	6,964,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$13.00 - \$15.00	\$55.00 and up

1916 - 1947 Walking Liberty Half Dollars

Mintage and Collectible Value

Year	Mintage	Good	Fine	Extra Fine	Uncirculated
1934 D	2,361,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$24.00 - \$28.00	\$100.00 and up
1934 S	3,652,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$22.00 - \$25.00	\$250.00 and up
1935	9,162,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$7.50 - \$8.00	\$13.00 - \$14.00	\$30.00 and up
1935 D	3,003,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$22.00 - \$25.00	\$80.00 and up
1935 S	3,854,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$20.00 - \$24.00	\$180.00 and up
1936	12,617,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$7.50 - \$8.00	\$13.00 - \$14.00	\$30.00 and up
1936 D	4,252,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$15.00 - \$18.00	\$50.00 and up
1936 S	3,884,000	\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$9.00 - \$10.00	\$15.00 - \$18.00	\$100.00 and up
1938 D	491,600	\$80.00 - \$90.00	\$70.00 - \$85.00	100.00 - 115.00	\$275.00 and up
Others		\$6.50 - \$7.00	\$7.50 - \$8.00	\$10.00 - \$12.00	\$25.00 and up



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US

HALF DOLLAR